



News Release

For immediate release: February 19, 2010

(10-033)

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Patient abuse charges lead to paramedic's immediate license suspension

Spokane man can't practice pending hearing outcome

OLYMPIA — A Spokane paramedic accused of using physical force on a patient has been immediately suspended by the state Department of Health.

The action, called a summary suspension, means Andrew N. Singleton (PARA.ES00109007) cannot practice or be employed as a paramedic in Washington pending the outcome of a hearing.

Legal documents allege that when Singleton entered the patient's bedroom to assess her condition, the patient, a petite female, pushed against him. Charges say he grabbed the patient by her throat, pushed her across the room onto her bed, and slapped her twice across the face.

Singleton has 20 days to request a hearing. The charging documents are online; click "Provider Credential Search" on the [agency home page](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov) — or call 360-236-4700.

Consumers who believe a health care provider acted unprofessionally may call the state Department of Health at 360-236-4700 to report their complaint. A [complaint form is also on the agency's Web site](http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/Professions/documents/complaint.pdf) (http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/Professions/documents/complaint.pdf).

Directions are listed for mailing, e-mailing, or faxing the completed form to the agency's Health Systems Quality Assurance division.

The Department of Health protects and promotes public health, safety, and welfare in Washington by regulating the competency and quality of health care providers. The agency establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensing, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency mechanisms, and discipline. Rules, policies, and procedures promote the delivery of quality health care.

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Visit the Washington Department of Health Web site at <http://www.doh.wa.gov> for a healthy dose of information.